



# Office for Life Sciences

## Office for Life Sciences Bulletin – 24 July 2020



### **OLS Introduction**

The Office for Life Sciences (OLS) is a joint unit between the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This bulletin aims to keep the life sciences sector up to date on the latest guidance whilst the UK is in the transition period and during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, providing you with information from Government to help your members and networks prepare.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email

[Anisha.Visram@beis.gov.uk](mailto:Anisha.Visram@beis.gov.uk)

### **Apply for the Queen's Award for Enterprise**

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the most prestigious awards for UK businesses recognising and rewarding their outstanding achievements in the fields of: Innovation, Sustainable Development, International Trade and Promoting Opportunity. The Awards can bring sustainable benefits to winners, including increased staff morale, boosts to turnover and international trade, greater recognition and excellent marketing opportunities. Winners are also invited to a reception in Buckingham Palace.

Almost all UK businesses can apply, applications are open until 9 September. Find out more [here](#).



### **Events**

Government departments are hosting a series of free webinars to help businesses understand the support available. Keep up to date with all the latest available webinars [here](#), and watch past HMRC videos [here](#).

**Tuesday 28 July** – [Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme](#)

**Various dates** – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Self-Employment Income Support Scheme \(SEISS\)](#)

**Various dates** – HMRC webinar on changes to the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, sets out how employers will be affected, flexible furloughing, key dates and support available. Sign up [here](#).



## **Workforce**

**NEW** – Individuals who are furloughed or who have their working hours reduced below the current statutory working time requirement for Enterprise Management Incentives as a result of coronavirus will retain the tax advantages of the scheme. Find more information [here](#).

**UPDATED** – If you're in the UK and your leave to remain expires between 24 January 2020 and 31 July 2020, your visa will be extended to 31 July 2020 if you cannot leave the UK because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to coronavirus. Find out more [here](#).



## **Support to business**

**UPDATED** – Guidance on NHS Test and Trace service in the workplace includes new information on if a worker develops symptoms and orders a test please find more information [here](#).

**NEW** – Business events and conferences can resume from 1 October provided rates of infection remain at current levels. More information is [available here](#).

**UPDATED** – Guidance on how to work safely in [care homes](#) and in [domiciliary care](#) has been updated to include the recommendation for the use of face masks and coverings in these settings.



## **Regulation**

**UPDATED** – Information for manufacturers of human plasma-derived medicines during the (COVID-19) outbreak can be found [here](#).

**NEW INFORMATION** – On audits of Notified Bodies and manufacturers can be found [here](#).

**UPDATED** – Information on how the different types of tests and testing kits for COVID-19, and the specifications for manufacturers. Can be found [here](#).

**UPDATED** – The MHRA have re-written the guidance 'For patients, the public and professional users: a guide to COVID-19 tests and testing kits' to make it clearer how the different types of tests work, and who can use them which can be found [here](#).



## **Useful Links**

- [Gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) provides a central hub of resources for the transition period
- You can sign up to email alerts about the transition period on GOV.UK at this [link](#).
- Sign up for Home Office email updates about developments on the status of EU citizens in the UK after we leave the EU and the next steps for EU citizens in the UK at this [link](#).
- Access the 'Check How to Export Goods' tool [here](#) for the information you need to export goods out of the UK market.

- Click [here](#) for more information and advice on exporting.
- Click [here](#) for updated information on the Covid-19 response from the Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England.
- Click [here](#) for a list of Business Representative Organisations and Trade Associations you can speak with to get advice.
- Specific information for businesses and employers in [Northern Ireland](#), [Scotland](#), and [Wales](#) is available. In England, [Growth Hubs](#) can advise on local and UK Government business support.
- COVID 19 key contact details:
  - General offers of help from industry: [gcfccovid19enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:gcfccovid19enquiries@cabinetoffice.gov.uk), or visit [this](#) webpage.
  - To offer your support producing ventilators please contact the Business Support Helpline for England on 0300 456 3565 or [ventilator.support@beis.gov.uk](mailto:ventilator.support@beis.gov.uk).
  - If you have already offered to assist on the ventilators project but not received a reply, please contact [existing.ventilators@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:existing.ventilators@dhsc.gov.uk).
  - Share the impact COVID-19 is having on your organisation with [intel@beis.gov.uk](mailto:intel@beis.gov.uk)
  - To provide feedback on MHRA engagement please contact [engagement@mhra.gov.uk](mailto:engagement@mhra.gov.uk)
  - To call the Business Support Helpline in England please dial **FREEPHONE 0800 998 1098**, Scotland 0300 303 0660, Business Wales 0330 060 300 and Invest Northern Ireland 0800 181 4422